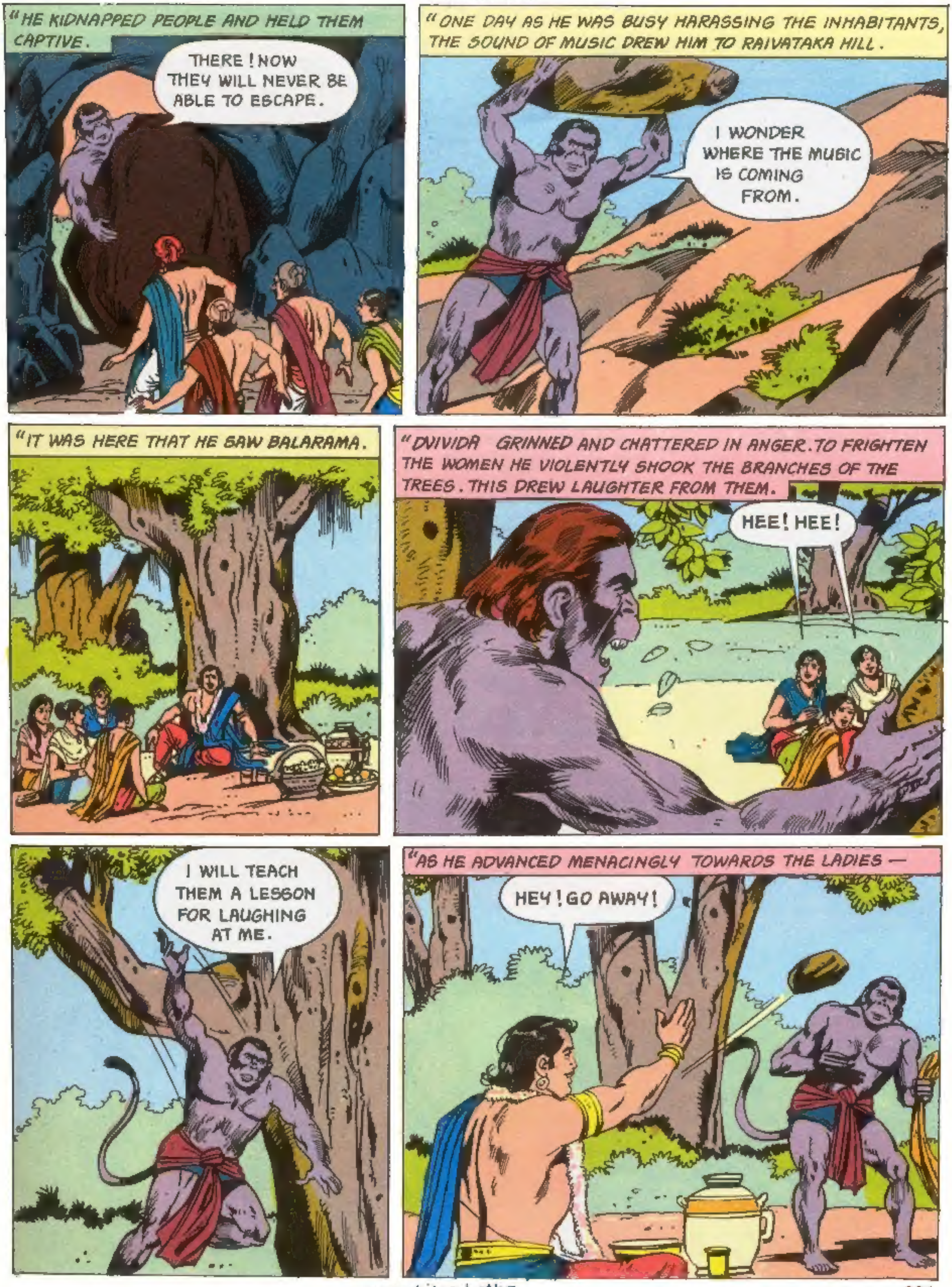
KRISHNA: AN ALLY OF THE PANDAVAS



* CORRESPONDING TO MODERN SAURASHTRA


"HE KIDNAPPED PEOPLE AND HELD THEM CAPTIVE.
THERE ! NOW THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.
"ONE DAY AS HE WAS BUSY HARASSING THE INHABITANTS, THE SOUND OF MUSIC DREW HIM TO RAIVATAKA HILL.
I WONDER WHERE THE MUSIC IS COMING FROM.
"IT WAS HERE THAT HE SAW BALARAMA.
"DVIVIDA GRINNED AND CHATTERED IN ANGER. TO FRIGHTEN THE WOMEN HE VIOLENTLY SHOOK THE BRANCHES OF THE TREES. THIS DREW LAUGHTER FROM THEM.
HEE! HEE!
I WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON FOR LAUGHING AT ME.
"AS HE ADVANCED MENACINGLY TOWARDS THE LADIES —
HEY ! GO AWAY !


"DVIVIDA NOW PICKED UP A JAR AND BROKE IT.
HOW DARE YOU! JUST WAIT!
"WHEN DVIVIDA SAW BALARAMA APPROACHING HIM WITH HIS FAVOURITE WEAPONS, HE UPROOTED A SALA TREE.
"BUT BALARAMA PARRIED THE BLOW WITH HIS LEFT HAND AND HIT DVIVIDA WITH HIS PESTLE.
"DVIVIDA'S HEAD WAS CRACKED OPEN BUT HE FOUGHT ON USING TREES AND ROCKS AS WEAPONS.
"BUT THEY WERE ALL CRUSHED BY BALARAMA. FINALLY DVIVIDA LUNGED AT HIM, BAREHANDED.
"BALARAMA CLENCHED HIS FIST AND HIT AT THE COLLAR BONE OF DVIVIDA. THE APE COLLAPSED AND THE ENTIRE FOREST SHOOK AS HE FELL.


"WHEN BALARAMA RETURNED TO DWARAKA, HE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE CITIZENS.
GOOD THAT YOU KILLED THAT DVIVIDA.
HE HAD BEEN TERRORISING THE PEOPLE.
"IT WAS SOME TIME AFTER THIS EVENT THAT PRINCE DURYODHANA ARRANGED THE SWAYAMVARA OF HIS DAUGHTER, LAKSHMANA. IT WAS ATTENDED BY KINGS AND PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR.
LOOK! THAT YOUNG MAN IS TAKING THE BRIDE AWAY.
WHO IS HE?
HE IS SAMBA, THE SON OF KRISHNA AND JAMBAVATI.
KARNA, SEIZE HIM.
"KARNA, DURYODHANA AND OTHERS FOLLOWED SAMBA.
WE WILL CAPTURE HIM. LET THE YADAVAS COME AND FREE HIM THEN.


"BUT KRISHNA'S SON FACED THE WARRIORS ALONE.
"HE SHOT ARROW AFTER ARROW TO COUNTER THEIR ATTACK.
LET US SURROUND HIM. YOU ATTACK HIS HORSE WHILE I AIM AT THE CHARIOTEER.
"AT LAST THE KAURAVA WARRIORS OVERPOWERED SAMBA.
"SAMBA WAS TIED UP AND TAKEN CAPTIVE TO HASTINAPURA.
"IT WAS NARADA, AS USUAL WHO CONVEYED THIS NEWS TO THE YADAVAS.
THE KAURAVAS HAVE CAPTURED SAMBA.
HOW DARE THEY DO SO? WE WILL ATTACK THEM WITH OUR ARMY.
"BALARAMA INTERVENED—
LET US AVOID ANY FIGHTS IN THE FAMILY. I MYSELF WILL GO TO HASTINA-PURA AND PERSUADE THEM TO FREE SAMBA.
"ACCOMPANIED BY SOME WISE OLD MEN, BALARAMA SET OUT FOR HASTINAPURA.
WE WILL STOP HERE OUTSIDE THE CITY. UDDHAVA, YOU GO TO KING DHRITARASHTRA AND FIND OUT WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE.


"UDDHAVA ARRIVED AT THE KAURAVA COURT.
SHRI BALARAMA IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
HE IS MOST WELCOME.
"BALARAMA WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE KAURAVAS. AFTER GREETING THEM BALARAMA SAID—
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM OUR KING UGRASENA. LISTEN PATIENTLY.
WE KNOW THAT YOUR WARRIORS SURROUNDED AND OVERPOWERED SAMBA IN AN UNJUST MANNER.
WE WANT TO AVOID ANY FAMILY FEUDS. HENCE WE DO NOT PROTEST OR FIGHT.
BUT NOW IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU RELEASE SAMBA AND RETURN HIM TO US WITH HIS NEWLY-WED WIFE.
"BALARAMA'S GENTLE REQUEST WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE KAURAVAS.
HA! YOU YADAVAS REALLY THINK TOO MUCH OF YOURSELF.
JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE RELATED TO US BY MARRIAGE, IT DOES NOT MAKE YOU OUR EQUAL IN STATUS.


SO FAR WE DID NOT OBJECT TO YOUR USE OF THE ROYAL INSIGNIA. BUT SINCE YOU ARE TRYING TO DICTATE TERMS TO US, WE WILL HAVE TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE.
"ARROGANTLY THE KAURAVAS WALKED AWAY WITHOUT EVEN WAITING FOR BALARAMA'S REPLY.
"BALARAMA WAS ENRAGED BY THIS INSULT.
I STOPPED OUR PEOPLE FROM WAGING A WAR WITH OUR KINSMEN, THE KAURAVAS. BUT I WAS WRONG.
THESE KAURAVAS ARE ASKING FOR A FIGHT. WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OF PUTTING THEM IN THEIR PLACE.
"BALARAMA HELD ALOFT HIS PLOUGH MENACINGLY.
TODAY I WILL RENDER THE EARTH FREE FROM THESE VAIN AND FOOLISH KAURAVAS.
" NO SOONER THAN BALARAMA'S WEAPON TOUCHED THE GROUND—
THE EARTH IS SHAKING!


"THE KAURAVAS WERE PANIC-STRICKEN.
STOP HIM!
HELP!
HE WILL DROWN OUR CITY IN THE GANGA.
"THEY HURRIEDLY RELEASED SAMBA.
HERE IS YOUR SAMBA AND LAKSHMANA, HIS WIFE.
"WITH FOLDED HANDS THEY APPROACHED BALARAMA.
FORGIVE US. IT WAS FOOLISH OF US TO INSULT YOU. SPARE OUR CITY AND OUR PEOPLE.
"ALL THE CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA BESEECHED BALARAMA.
SAVE US!
HAVE MERCY!
"BALARAMA'S ANGER WAS EASILY AROUSED BUT ALSO EASILY PACIFIED.
DO NOT BE AFRAID. I WILL SPARE YOU.
"DURYODHANA, WHO LOVED HIS DAUGHTER LAKSHMANA DEARLY, GAVE HER GENEROUS PRESENTS.
"FOLLOWED BY A RETINUE OF ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND CHARIOTS GIFTED TO THE BRIDE, BALARAMA RETURNED TO DWARAKA WITH THE NEWLY-WEDS.

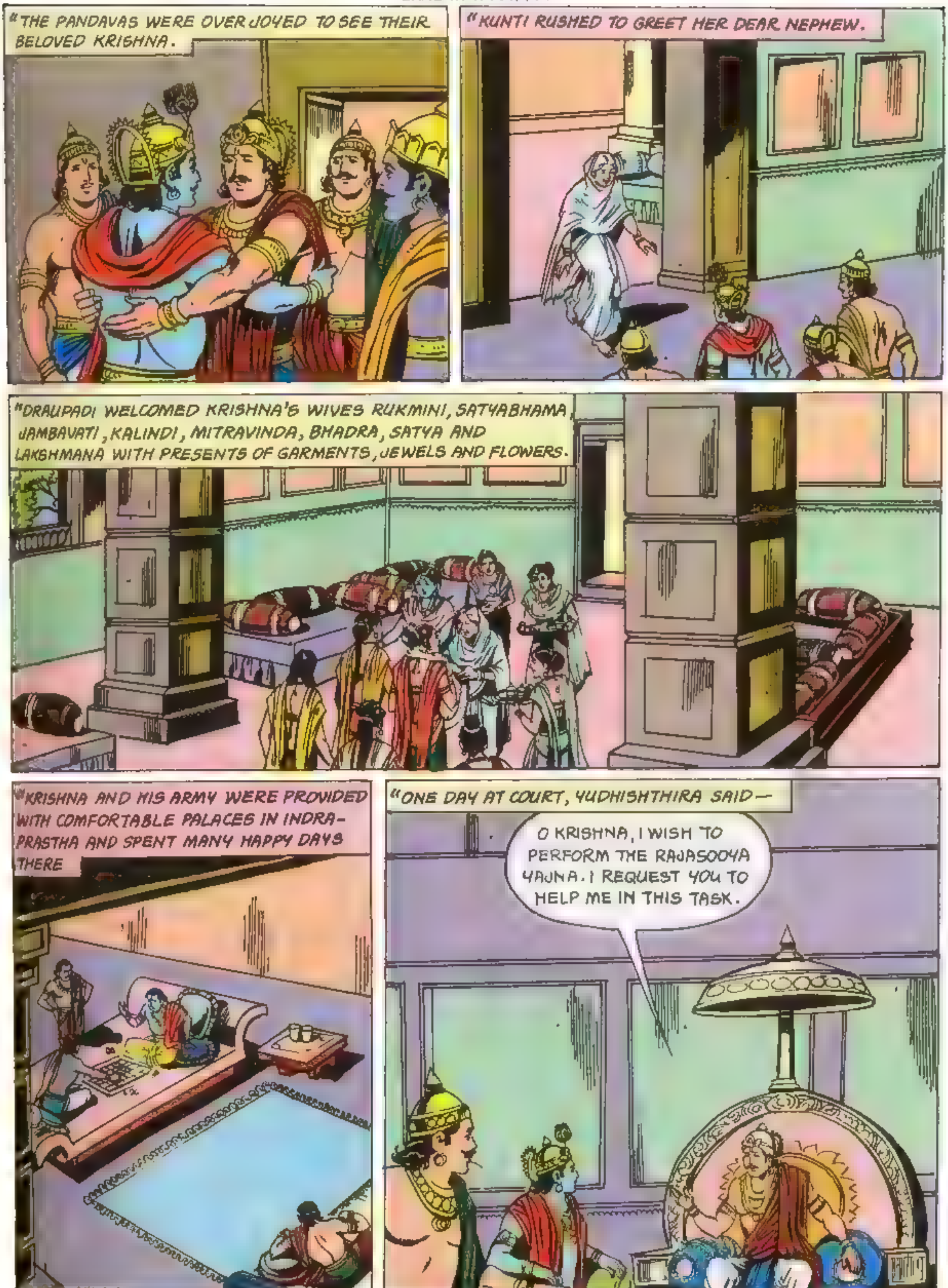

"BALARAMA RELATED THE EVENTS IN THE COURT OF DWARAKA.
THIS IS HOW OUR SAMBA WON THE HAND OF LAKSHMANA.
SHUKADEVA PAUSED FOR EFFECT.
TILL TODAY, THE CITY OF HASTINAPURA IS RAISED AT THE SOUTHERN END AND INCLINED TOWARDS THE GANGA, EVIDENCE OF BALARAMA'S PROWESS.
"ONE DAY, NARADA DECIDED TO VISIT KRISHNA.
KRISHNA HAS MARRIED THOUSANDS OF PRINCESSES, THOSE WHOM HE RESCUED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF NARAKASURA. I MUST SEE HOW HE SPENDS HIS DAY AT DWARAKA.
"WHEN NARADA ARRIVED AT THE RESPLENDENT CITY OF DWARAKA, HE BEHELD THE BEAUTIFUL INNER CHAMBERS OF THE QUEENS.
AH! PILLARS MADE OF CORAL, BALCONIES OF LAPIS-LAZULI AND SAPPHIRE WALLS. VISHWAKARMA HAS REALLY DISPLAYED HIS ART IN THIS PALACE.
"NARADA FOUND KRISHNA IN RUKMINI'S PALACE.
WELCOME, O NARADA!


"AFTER EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES WITH KRISHNA AND RUKMINI, NARADA'S CURIOSITY LED HIM TO THE PALACES OF THE OTHER QUEENS.
"HE WAS ASTONISHED AT THE SIGHT THAT MET HIS EYES IN THE VARIOUS PALACES.
"HE SAW KRISHNA PLAYING CHESS IN ONE.
"WHILE IN ANOTHER KRISHNA APPEARED TO BE ENGROSSED IN PERFORMING A YAJNA.
"HE BEHELD KRISHNA ROMPING PLAYFULLY WITH HIS CHILDREN IN ONE ROOM.
"WHILE A MINUTE LATER, HE SAW KRISHNA IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH LEARNED PANDITS.


"BEFORE LEAVING, NARADA TURNED TO KRISHNA, AND SAID —
O LORD, YOU ALONE AMONG THE GODS ARE CAPABLE OF INDULGING IN SUCH HUMAN ACTIVITIES.
"ONE DAY WHILE KRISHNA WAS IN THE COUNCIL HALL CALLED SUDHARMA SABHA, A STRANGER RUSHED IN —
O LORD, YOU ARE THE SAVIOUR OF ALL. I HAVE COME TO SEEK YOUR HELP.
"HE WAS THE MESSENGER SENT ON BEHALF OF THE THOUSANDS OF KINGS HELD CAPTIVE BY JARASANDHA IN GIRIVRAJA.
THE IMPRISONED KINGS HAVE IMPLORED YOU TO HELP THEM.
JARASANDHA WAS DEFEATED SEVENTEEN TIMES BY YOU. IT WAS ONLY TO DISPLAY YOUR HUMAN FRAILTY THAT YOU ALLOWED HIM TO DEFEAT YOU ON THE EIGHTEENTH OCCASION.
BUT THIS ONE VICTORY HAS MADE JARASANDHA MORE ARROGANT THAN HE EVER WAS.
THE CAPTURED KINGS DEPEND ON YOUR HELP, O KRISHNA.
"JUST THEN NARADA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. AFTER WELCOMING HIM WITH DUE RESPECT, KRISHNA SAID —
O NARADA, YOU ROAM FREELY IN THE THREE WORLDS. TELL US, HOW ARE YUDHISHTHIRA AND THE OTHER PANDAVAS?


LORD, YOU JUST PRETEND TO BE IGNORANT OF WHAT GOES ON. NOTHING ESCAPES YOUR ATTENTION.
I WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ALL THE SAME. THE PANDAVAS ARE WELL AND HAPPY. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE PRESENT AT THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA THEY PLAN TO PERFORM.
KRISHNA SEEMED UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS NEXT MOVE.
WE SHOULD ATTACK JARASANDHA FIRST.
YES, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO RELEASE THOSE KINGS.
KRISHNA TURNED TO UDDHAVA—
UDDHAVA, I HAVE FAITH IN YOUR WISE COUNSEL. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES?
SAGE NARADA HAS ASKED YOU TO ATTEND THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA OF YOUR COUSINS, THE PANDAVAS. IT IS FITTING FOR YOU TO BE THERE. BUT OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE TASK OF HELPING THE KINGS WHO HAVE SOUGHT YOUR PROTECTION.
TO PERFORM A RAJASOOYA YAJNA, THE PANDAVAS WILL HAVE TO GAIN SUPREMACY OVER THE ENTIRE LAND.


JARASANDHA WILL HAVE TO BE DEFEATED IN EITHER CASE SO THAT THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA CAN BE PERFORMED OR TO HELP THE KINGS HELD PRISONERS BY HIM.
BHEEMA CAN EASILY OVERPOWER JARASANDHA IN A DUEL. SINCE JARASANDHA IS KNOWN TO BE GENEROUS TO BRAHMINS, BHEEMA COULD GO DISGUISED AS A BRAHMIN.
"UDDHAVA'S WORDS FOUND FAVOUR WITH EVERYONE.
A GOOD IDEA.
YES, I AGREE.
"SOON KRISHNA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIVES AND CHILDREN, SET OUT FOR INDRAPRASTHA.
"BEFORE LEAVING DWARAKA, HE ASSURED THE MESSENGER FROM GIRIVRAJA.
GO AND TELL THE KINGS NOT TO BE AFRAID. I WILL SOON COME AND SLAY JARASANDHA.
"AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF TRAVEL, TRAVERSING MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, KRISHNA AND HIS ARMY REACHED INDRAPRASTHA.


"THE PANDAVAS WERE OVERJOYED TO SEE THEIR BELOVED KRISHNA.
"KUNTI RUSHED TO GREET HER DEAR NEPHEW.
"DRAUPADI WELCOMED KRISHNA'S WIVES RUKMINI, SATYABHAMA JAMBAVATI, KALINDI, MITRAVINDA, BHADRA, SATYA AND LAKSHMANA WITH PRESENTS OF GARMENTS, JEWELS AND FLOWERS.
"KRISHNA AND HIS ARMY WERE PROVIDED WITH COMFORTABLE PALACES IN INDRAPRASTHA AND SPENT MANY HAPPY DAYS THERE
"ONE DAY AT COURT, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID—
O KRISHNA, I WISH TO PERFORM THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA. I REQUEST YOU TO HELP ME IN THIS TASK.

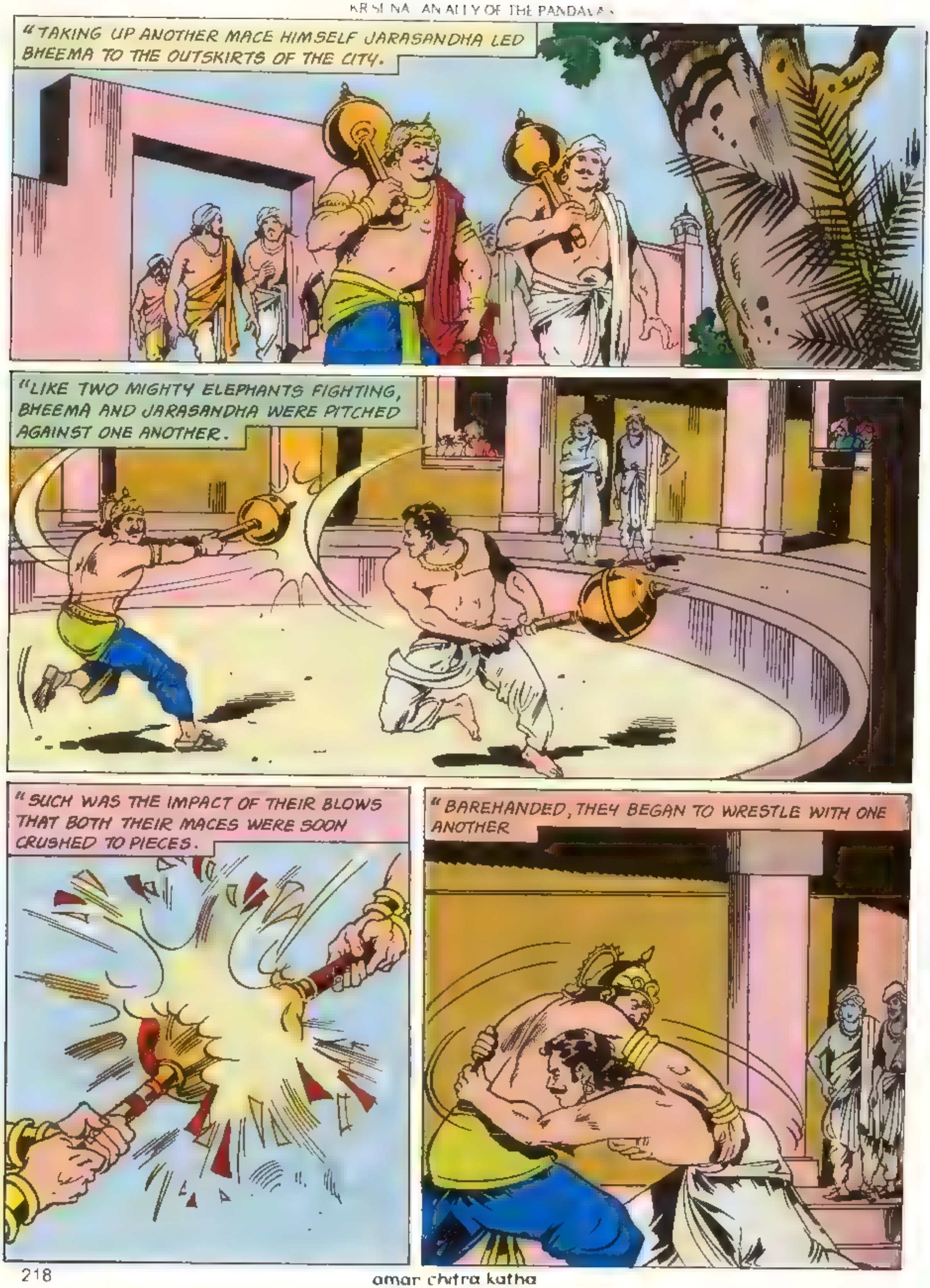


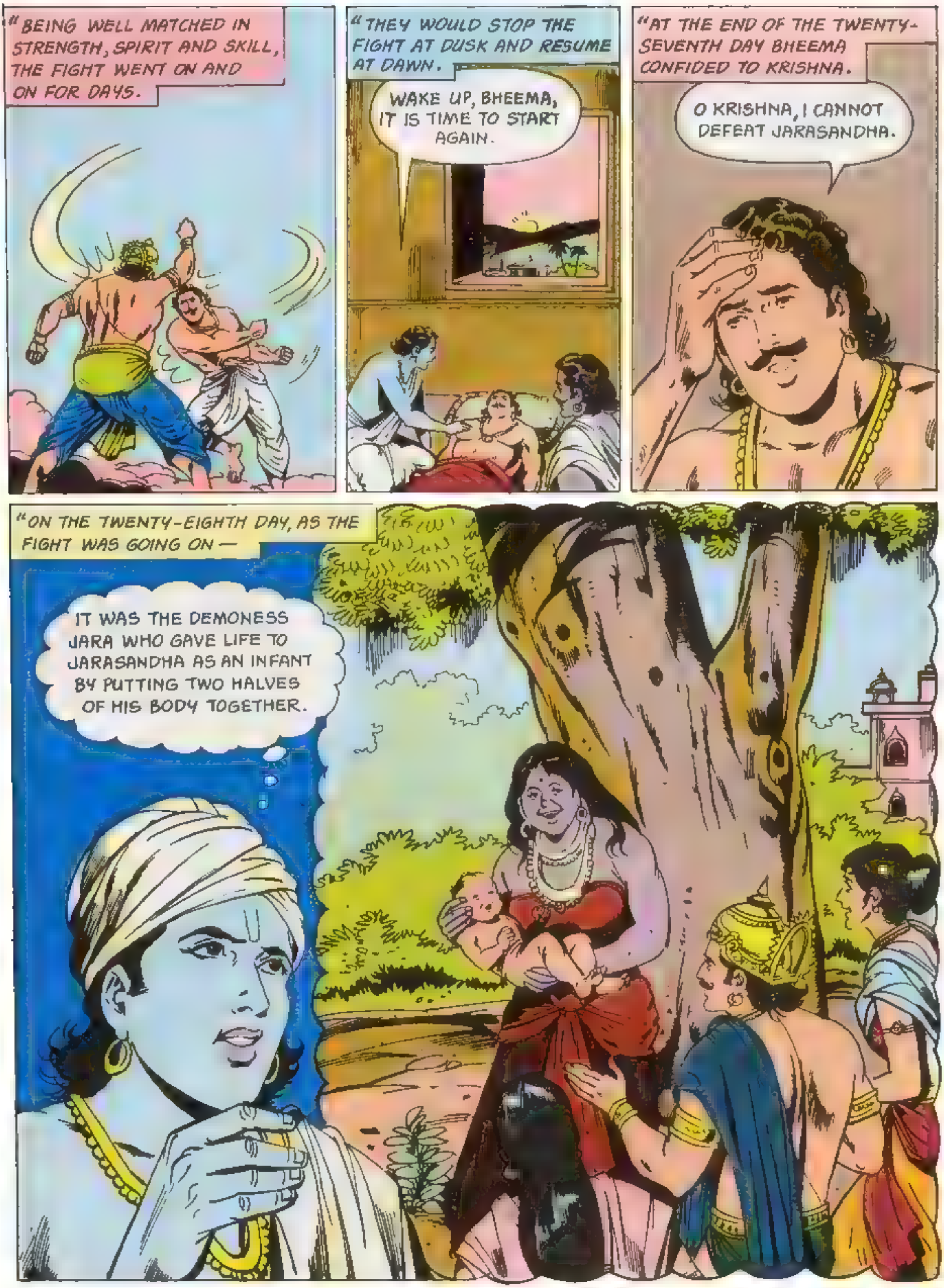
* KINGDOM RULED BY VIRATA

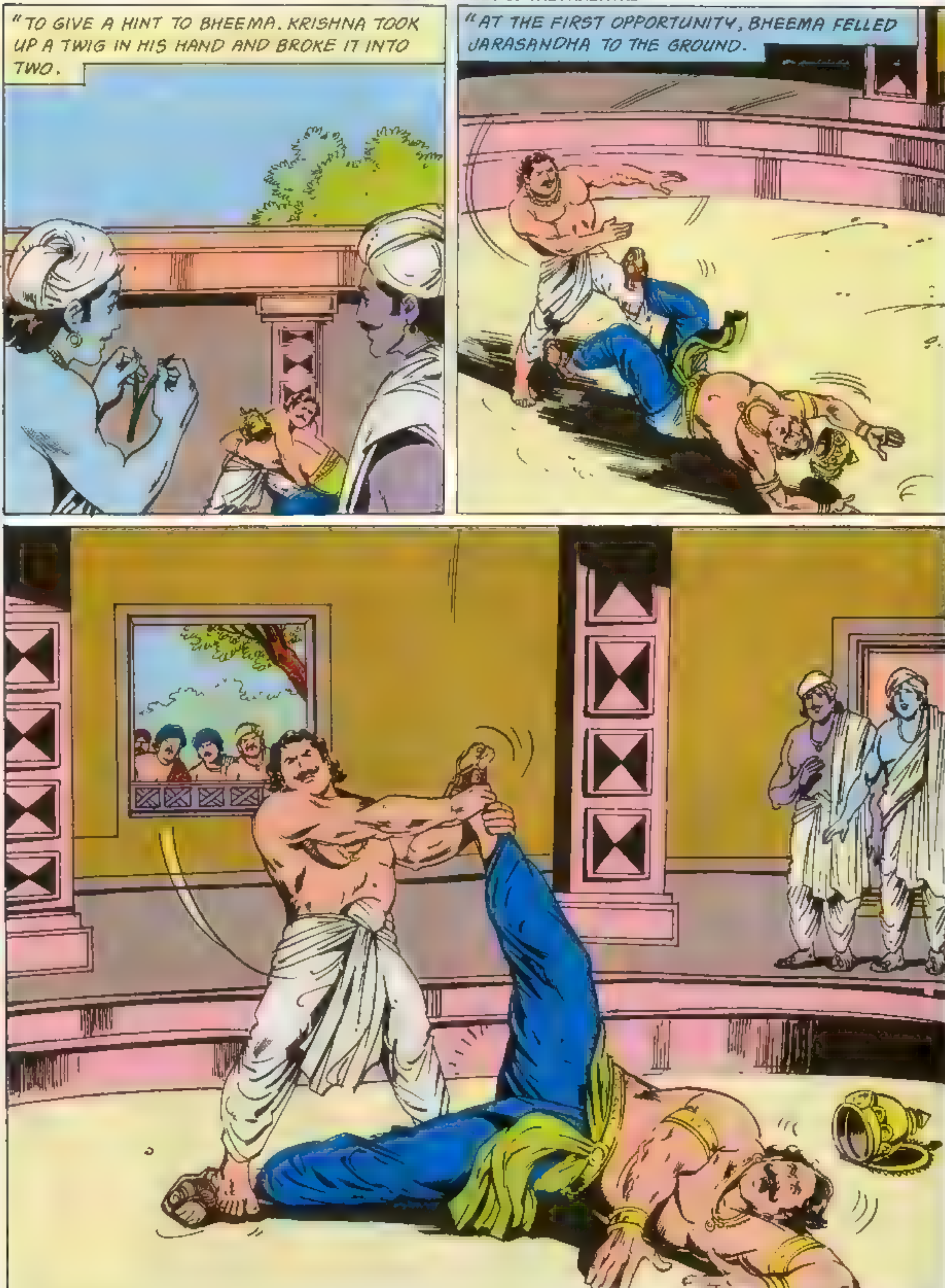

"THEY RETURNED VICTORIOUS, LADEN WITH THE TREASURES GIFTED BY THE CONQUERED KINGS.
HERE IT IS, THE WEALTH FROM THE KINGS WHO HAVE SURRENDERED TO YOUR SUPREMACY.
HAVE ALL THE KINGS AGREED?
YES, EXCEPT JARASANDHA.
"SEEING YUDHISHTHIRA'S ENTHUSIASM BEING DAMPENED BY THIS NEWS, KRISHNA SAID —
UDDHAVA HAD SUGGESTED A WAY OF CONQUERING JARASANDHA.
"HE THEN UNFOLDED HIS PLAN.
"SOON BHEEMA, ARJUNA AND KRISHNA REACHED GIRIVRAJA, THE CAPITAL OF JARASANDHA, IN THE GUISE OF BRAHMINS.


"WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT JARASANDHA'S PALACE —
GLORY TO YOU, O KING. WE HAVE TRAVELLED FROM AFAR WITH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. DO GRANT US OUR REQUEST.
DO NOT DISAPPOINT US, O KING.
YOU KNOW HOW HARISHCHANDRA, RANTIDEVA, SHIBI AND BALI, ATTAINED SALVATION BY GIVING AWAY ALL THEY HAD TO THEIR GUESTS.
"JARASANDHA WAS NOT FOOLED BY THEIR DISGUISE.
THEY APPEAR TO BE KSHATRIYAS, NOT BRAHMINS. THE MARKS OF THE BOW ARE SO CLEAR ON THEIR WRISTS.
YET, PROBABLY IT IS OUT OF FEAR OF ME THAT THEY ARE IN DISGUISE. I WILL GIVE THEM WHATEVER THEY ASK.
"ALOUD HE SAID—
O BRAHMINS, TELL ME WHAT YOU DESIRE. I AM EVEN READY TO GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR YOU.


"KRISHNA SAID —
WE ARE NOT BRAHMINS IN SEARCH OF ALMS. WE ARE KSHATRIYAS KEEN ON FIGHTING. WE WANT A DUEL WITH YOU. THAT IS THE ALMS WE SEEK.
THIS IS PANDU'S SON BHEEMA AND THIS IS HIS BROTHER ARJUNA. I AM THEIR COUSIN AND YOUR ARCH ENEMY KRISHNA.
"JARASANDHA ROARED WITH LAUGHTER.
YOU FOOLS! IF IT IS A FIGHT YOU WANT, I WILL HAPPILY GRANT YOUR WISH.
BUT, KRISHNA, YOU ARE A REAL COWARD. YOU GET SCARED DURING A WAR. YOU EVEN DESERTED YOUR MATHURA FOR FEAR OF ME AND TOOK SHELTER IN THE OCEAN. SO I WILL NOT FIGHT WITH YOU.
ARJUNA IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BE MY EQUAL, SO I SHALL NOT FIGHT WITH HIM.
THAT LEAVES ONLY YOU, BHEEMA. HERE, TAKE THIS MACE.


"TAKING UP ANOTHER MACE HIMSELF JARASANDHA LED BHEEMA TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.
"LIKE TWO MIGHTY ELEPHANTS FIGHTING, BHEEMA AND JARASANDHA WERE PITCHED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
"SUCH WAS THE IMPACT OF THEIR BLOWS THAT BOTH THEIR MACES WERE SOON CRUSHED TO PIECES.
"BAREHANDED, THEY BEGAN TO WRESTLE WITH ONE ANOTHER


"BEING WELL MATCHED IN STRENGTH, SPIRIT AND SKILL, THE FIGHT WENT ON AND ON FOR DAYS.
"THEY WOULD STOP THE FIGHT AT DUSK AND RESUME AT DAWN.
WAKE UP, BHEEMA, IT IS TIME TO START AGAIN.
"AT THE END OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY BHEEMA CONFIDED TO KRISHNA.
O KRISHNA, I CANNOT DEFEAT JARASANDHA.
"ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY, AS THE FIGHT WAS GOING ON —
IT WAS THE DEMONESS JARA WHO GAVE LIFE TO JARASANDHA AS AN INFANT BY PUTTING TWO HALVES OF HIS BODY TOGETHER.


"TO GIVE A HINT TO BHEEMA, KRISHNA TOOK UP A TWIG IN HIS HAND AND BROKE IT INTO TWO.
"AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY, BHEEMA FELLED JARASANDHA TO THE GROUND.

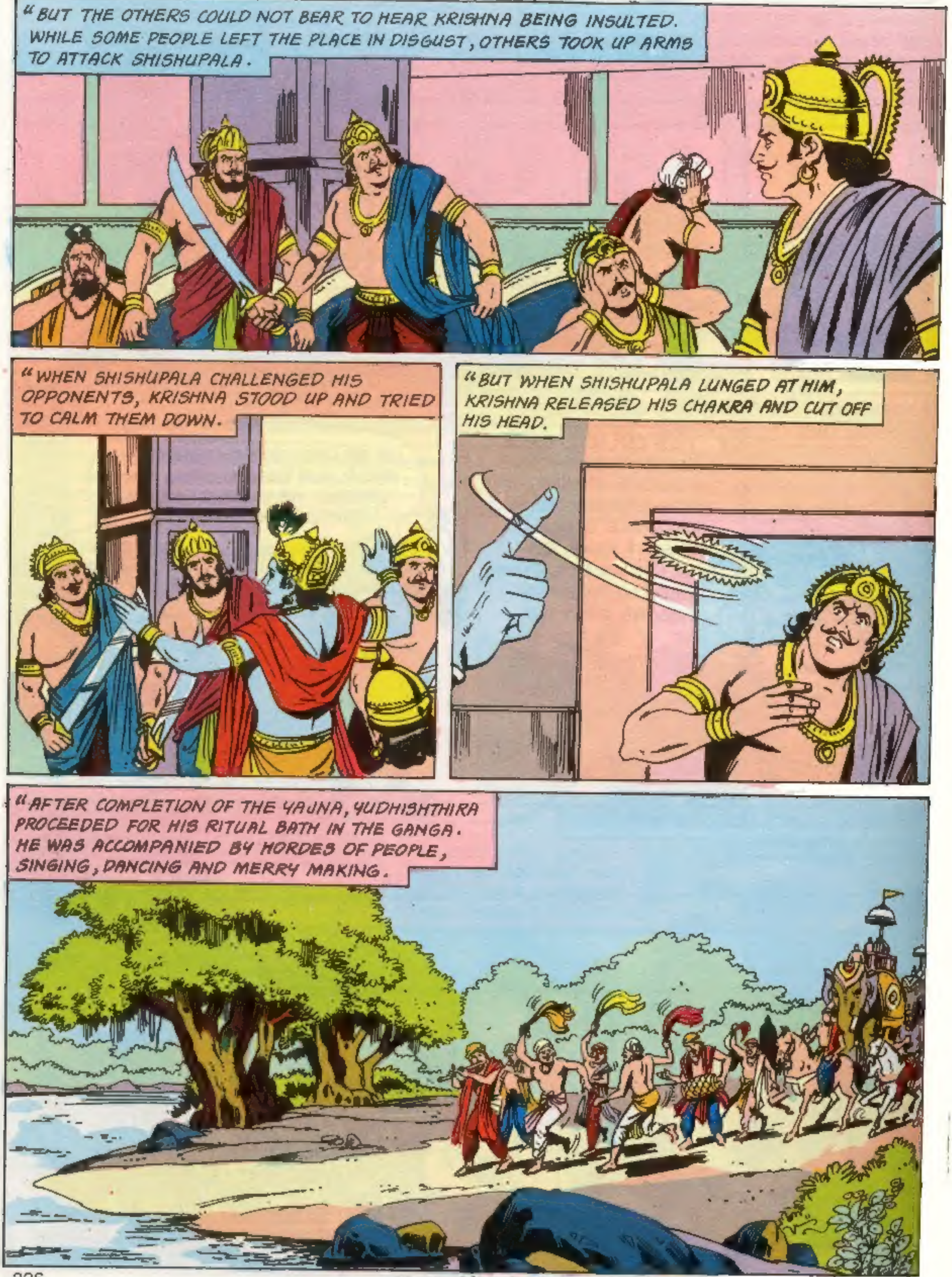

"WITH A SINGLE STROKE, BHEEMA TORE JARASANDHA'S BODY INTO TWO.
"AMIDST THE LOUD CRIES OF THE SPECTATORS, ARJUNA AND KRISHNA EMBRACED BHEEMA.
"JARASANDHA'S SON SAHADEVA WAS INSTALLED AS THE KING BY KRISHNA.
LET US NOW FREE THE KINGS.
"THE THOUSANDS OF KINGS WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED BY JARASANDHA IN A FORT WERE FREED AT LAST.


"THEIR WEARY AND WORN FACES LIT UP WHEN THEY BEHELD KRISHNA IN HIS DIVINE FORM.
YOU ARE INDEED THE REMOVER OF ALL TROUBLES AND FEARS, O KRISHNA.
"KRISHNA SAID—
IT WAS THE VANITY OF THEIR POSSESSIONS THAT LED THE LIKES OF RAVANA, HEHAYA AND NAHUSHA TO LOSE THEIR POSITIONS. WITH YOUR SENSES UNDER CONTROL AND YOUR MIND FIRM, LOOK AFTER THE SUBJECTS OF YOUR KINGDOM.
"THEREAFTER KRISHNA ARRANGED FOR THE KINGS TO BE BATHED AND REFRESHED. UNDER KRISHNA'S GUIDANCE, THE NEW KING SAHADEVA GAVE THEM PRESENTS BEFITTING ROYAL GUESTS.
"THE VARIOUS KINGS WENT BACK TO THEIR KINGDOMS ON BEJEWELLED CHARIOTS, SINGING THE PRAISES OF KRISHNA ON THEIR WAY.


"LATER, KRISHNA, ARJUNA AND BHEEMA TOO RETURNED TO INDRAPRASTHA. THE SOUND OF THEIR CONCH-SHELLS ANNOUNCED THEIR ARRIVAL.
KRISHNA AND ARJUNA ARE BACK.
JARASANDHA MUST HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
O KING! NOW YOU CAN BEGIN YOUR RAJASOOYA YAJNA.
"YUDHISHTHIRA'S EYES DIMMED WITH TEARS OF JOY WHEN HE MET KRISHNA.
O KRISHNA, YOU ARE THE LORD OF ALL WORLDS, YET LIKE AN ACTOR YOU INDULGE IN THESE HUMAN ACTIVITIES.
"WITH KRISHNA'S PERMISSION, YUDHISHTHIRA BEGAN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE YAJNA.
INVITE WELL VERSED BRAHMINS LIKE VYASA, BHARADWAJA, GAUTAMA, KANVA AND DHAUMYA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE YAJNA.
FORMAL INVITATIONS MUST BE SENT TO DRONACHARYA, BHEESHMA, KRIPACHARYA, TO KING DHRITARASHTRA AND DURYODHANA AS WELL AS TO THE WISE VIDURA.
"AN OPEN INVITATION WAS ANNOUNCED FOR PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO ATTEND THE YAJNA.


"AS PER CUSTOM, THE LAND CONSECRATED FOR THE YAJNA WAS PLOUGHED WITH A GOLDEN PLOUGH BY YUDHISHTHIRA.
"GUIDED BY LEARNED PRIESTS, YUDHISHTHIRA PERFORMED ALL THE REQUISITE RITUALS OF THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA.
NOW THE MAIN CEREMONIES ARE OVER. TO WHOM WILL YOU OFFER THE FIRST WORSHIP?
"EVERYONE PRESENT HAD A DIFFERENT OPINION AS TO WHO MERITED THE HONOUR OF BEING OFFERED THE FIRST WORSHIP. SAHADEVA SAID —
SHRI KRISHNA IS THE BEST AMONG THE ASSEMBLED PEOPLE HERE AND HE ALONE DESERVES THE HONOUR. WORSHIPPING HIM IS LIKE WORSHIPPING THE ENTIRE CREATION.
"SAHADEVA'S PROPOSAL WAS HEARTILY WELCOMED.
VERY CORRECT.
SAHADEVA IS RIGHT.
WELL SAID.
"YUDHISHTHIRA WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THIS AND JOYFULLY BEGAN TO OFFER PRAYERS TO KRISHNA.


"WHEN HE GIFTED YELLOW SILK GARMENTS AND COSTLY JEWELS TO KRISHNA THE HALL WAS FILLED WITH JOYOUS CHEERS OF FELICITATION.
HAIL KRISHNA!
"SHISHUPALA, THE PRINCE OF CHEDI, COULD NOT BEAR ALL THIS.
HOW CAN YOU PEOPLE BE MISLED BY A YOUNG FOOL LIKE SAHADEVA? WITH SO MANY LEARNED VENERABLE SAGES PRESENT HERE, HOW CAN YOU SELECT A COW-HERD LIKE KRISHNA FOR THE FIRST WOR-SHIP?
HE BELONGS TO NO CASTE OR CREED. NOR DOES HE HAVE ANY VIRTUES. HE IS A BLOT ON HIS FAMILY'S HONOUR.
"KRISHNA CALMLY HEARD SHISHUPALA'S BITTER OUTBURSTS.


"BUT THE OTHERS COULD NOT BEAR TO HEAR KRISHNA BEING INSULTED. WHILE SOME PEOPLE LEFT THE PLACE IN DISGUST, OTHERS TOOK UP ARMS TO ATTACK SHISHUPALA.
"WHEN SHISHUPALA CHALLENGED HIS OPPONENTS, KRISHNA STOOD UP AND TRIED TO CALM THEM DOWN.
"BUT WHEN SHISHUPALA LUNGED AT HIM, KRISHNA RELEASED HIS CHAKRA AND CUT OFF HIS HEAD.
"AFTER COMPLETION OF THE YAJNA, YUDHISHTHIRA PROCEEDED FOR HIS RITUAL BATH IN THE GANGA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HORDES OF PEOPLE, SINGING, DANCING AND MERRY MAKING.


"DURYODHANA AND THE KAURAVAS, KRISHNA AND HIS WIVES WERE PERSUADED TO STAY AND SPENT SOME HAPPY DAYS IN THE WONDERFUL PALACE BUILT BY MAYA.
"THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE RAJASOOYA YAJNA WAS A SOURCE OF JOY FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT DURYO-DHANA. HE BURNED WITH ENVY SEEING THE INCREASED WEALTH AND GLORY OF THE PANDAVAS.
EVERYONE TALKS ONLY OF YUDHISHTHIRA'S GLORY AND HIS YAJNA.
"ONE DAY HE WAS CONFUSED AS HE AMBLED ALONG IN THE PALACE SO BUILT BY MAYA AS TO CAUSE ILLUSIONS.
OH! I THOUGHT IT WAS THE FLOOR.
"MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING BHEEMA AND THE QUEENS BURST INTO LAUGHTER AT DURYODHANA'S PLIGHT.
I'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON ONE DAY.
ALTHOUGH YUDHISHTHIRA TRIED TO RESTRAIN THEM, EVERYONE AT THE COURT OF INDRAPRASTHA LAUGHED AND MOCKED AT DURYODHANA. THUS YUDHISHTHIRA'S RAJASOOYA YAJNA WAS HAILED BY EVERY-ONE EXCEPT DURYODHANA, WHOSE HEART WAS FILLED WITH ENVY AND BITTERNESS.
THUS ENDS THE EIGHTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF THE TENTH CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAWAT PURANA.